CLAIMS

1 A sheet like substrate comprising a substantially non-polar material having coated onto at least one side thereon an anchor coating to aid subsequent coating thereon of a polar coating and/or layer, characterised in that the anchor coating comprises

(a) a polymer comprising an optionally substituted α, β carboxylic acid optionally of high acid value preferably the polymer having a low T_g;

(b) a polymer comprising an optionally unsubstituted α, β carboxylic acid optionally of low acid value preferably the polymer having a high T_g;

(c) a cross-linker, preferably added after a period of time to a mixture of polymers (a) and (b) to cross-link the resultant coating composition and increase the T_g thereof.

2 A sheet as claimed in claim 1, in which the polar coating or layer is selected from: a pressure sensitive adhesive and/or a metal.

3 A sheet as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the polar coating is a metal layer

4 A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which the polar coating is aluminium.

5 A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (a) comprises a high acid imminated acrylic polymer.

6 A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (a) is present in an amount from about 50% to about 90% by weight of the dry coat.

7. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (a) is present in an amount from about 70% to about 80% by weight of the dry coat.

8. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (b) comprises an alkyl methacrylate polymer

9 A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (a) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 50% by weight of the dry coat.

10. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (a) is present in an amount from about 10% to about 30% by weight of the dry coat.

11. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (c) comprises an arizidine cross-linker

12. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (c) comprises trimethylol-tris(N(methylaziridinyl))propionate.

13 A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (c) is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 20% by weight of the dry coat.

10. A sheet as claimed in any preceding claim in which component (c) is present in an amount from about 1% to about 10% by weight of the dry coat.

11. An anchor coating composition as represented in any preceding claim.

12. A liquid anchor coating composition comprising components (a), (b) and (c) as represented in any preceding claim plus a liquid carrier.

13. A liquid coating composition as claimed in claim 12, in which the liquid carrier is water.

14. A liquid coating composition as claimed in either claim 12 or 13 which further comprises a wetting agent.

15. A coating composition as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14 which further comprises a means to inhibit the cross-linking component (c).

16. A method for coating at least one side of a substantially planar self supporting sheet , the method comprising the steps of:

a) optionally treating the sheet surface (optionally by primer coat and/or corona discharge) to better receive a coating;

b) preparing a coating composition as claimed in any of claims 11 to 15,

(c) applying and fixing said formulation to at least one surface of the sheet to form a coating thereon.

(d) optionally drying the coating on the sheet to remove excess liquid.

17. A method for coating at least one side of a substantially planar self supporting sheet , the method comprising the steps of:

(a) optionally treating the sheet surface (optionally by primer coat and/or corona discharge) to better receive a coating;

(b) preparing a coating composition as claimed in claims 16,

(c1) applying and fixing said formulation to at least one surface of the sheet to form a coating thereon.

(c2) just before, sequentially, or simultaneously with step (c1) deactivating the inhibition means to allow cross-linking; and

(d) optionally drying the coating on the sheet to remove excess liquid.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, in which step (c2) comprises a change in pH.

19. A method as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, which comprises the further steps of:

(e) waiting until cross-linking has substantially been completed; and then

(f) applying a further coating onto the anchor composition.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, in which the further coat comprises an adhesive (optionally pressure-sensitive) and/or a metal layer (optionally aluminium).

21. A coated sheet obtained and/or obtainable by a method claimed in any of claims 16 to 20.

22. A coated sheet according to any of claims 1 to 10 or 20, in which the sheet comprises a cellulosic material, polymeric material and/or thermoplastic polymer,

23. A coated sheet according to claim 22, in which the sheet comprises a polyolefin, polyurethane, polyester, polyamides and/or non-hydrocarbon polymer and which is optionally oriented in at least one direction.

24. A coated sheet or coating composition substantially as described herein with reference to Example 1

25. Packaging for an article, the packaging comprising a coated sheet as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, 20 and/or 24.

26. An article packaged with packaging as claimed in claim 25.

27. A label and/or graphic art display comprising a coated sheet as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, 20 and/or 24.

28. An article comprising a label and/or graphic art display as claimed in claim 27.

29. Use of a composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, 20 and/or 24, for the purpose of coating a sheet to provide an improved anchor coating and/or heat resistance to said sheet and/or to subsequent coatings and/or layers thereon.